

Meeting was called to order by Chair Person Renee Hyde, at 9:01 AM

#### **Attendees**

Andy Defreece  
Don Eberle  
Susan Evans  
Tina Forte  
Steven Gray  
Scott Gregory  
Michele Hensley  
Renee Hyde  
Ben King  
Ann Nickerson  
Deb Ross  
Kristin Schultz  
Bryan Seck  
Bob Uhing  
Donald Weber

#### **NDE Staff**

Brad Conner  
Pat Frost  
Sharon Katt  
Randy McIntyre  
Terri Schuster  
Karen Stevens  
Diane Stuehmer  
Beth Zillig  
Sue Anderson  
Matt Heusman  
Aprille Phillips

#### **Guests**

Marilyn Peterson  
Tara James  
Deeann Goesser  
Anne Caruso

#### **Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2014 meeting**

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Programs Administrator pointed out two typographical errors from the October 21, 2014 meeting. Bob Uhing made a motion to approve minutes with corrections, Susan Evans seconded and the motion was carried.

#### **Committee Member Information**

Renee Hyde, Chairperson reminded the committee the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is to be followed. Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that the Committee of Practitioners (COP) information is now included on NDE Federal Programs webpage. Mike Kissler, Title II-A Coordinator retired at the end of January and his responsibilities will now be carried out by Brad Conner. Since Mike's position was half time Brad Conner will retain his Title I consultation responsibilities as well.

#### **A QuESTT – Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (Sue Anderson)**

Sue Anderson, a guest speaker and NDE colleague shared information with the committee about the six tenants of AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow). AQuESTT is NDE's response to a legislative mandate and aligns some regulatory requirements under the umbrella of quality, accountability, and school improvement. AQuESTT is the framework that will be used to annually classify schools into one of four performance areas: Excellent, Great, Good, and Needs Improvement/Priority. A link to the handout is located on our Federal Programs webpage under "COP Information" presented at the meeting. Sue Anderson informed the committee of the upcoming, "AQuESTT Empowered BY DATA Conference": April 27-28.

#### **NCLB Waiver Request Status (Aprille Phillips & Matt Heusman)**

Matt Heusman and Aprille Phillips informed the committee of NDE's intent to submit a request for an NCLB Waiver. They indicated that the waiver request focuses on things that are already happening in schools and NDE. The draft is located on the website. A link has been provided for your convenience.

<http://www.education.ne.gov/ESEAFlex/MarchESEAFlexibilityDraft.pdf>

The Application is due March 31, 2015.

#### **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Update**

Diane Stuehmer, Federal Programs Administrator informed the committee that CEP is a Program of the US Dept. of Agriculture. Beginning this semester Omaha has six schools that are implementing the community eligibility provision. Any school that implements CEP can no longer collect the national school lunch forms. Districts have the ability to implement CEP District-wide, in individual schools, or by grouping schools, but must meet the minimum of 40% poverty based on Direct Certification.

#### **ESEA/NCLB Program Updates**

##### **Nonpublic Consultation Forms (Updated Process)**

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee of the change in process for nonpublic consultations. Paper forms are still used for the consultation process, but public school districts will now enter the information from the forms into the CDC (Consolidated Data Collection). The change was in part due to a finding by the State of Nebraska auditing information which showed gaps in dissemination of Title II-A funds to nonpublic schools.

**Consortia/Multi-District Agreement**

Diane Stuehmer informed the committee that new for the 2015-16 school year, districts may no longer assign a portion of their Title II-A funds to ESU's (they may assign either 0% or 100%).

**Nebraska Allocations FY2009 - FY2014**

Diane Stuehmer provided the committee with a list of federal grant funding trends for the various federal programs including the current fiscal year.

**Title I-A****Schoolwide Review Process**

Beth Zillig, NDE Assistant Director of Title I reported the Schoolwide review process has changed a bit starting this year. The old process used to be that buildings reviewed other building's plans the same year that they updated their own plan, then the next year did a self-review and participated in their district's ESEA/NCLB monitoring and then the following year just did a self-review. The new process has buildings participating in the Schoolwide Peer Review process (reviewing other building's plans) the year before they create/update their own plans. This way it can really be used as a professional development opportunity so participants gain a better understanding of the required elements of a schoolwide plan and walk through the process a couple times before doing it themselves the next year. This year there are 100 buildings submitting plans to be reviewed and 193 participants registered to review plans. Many buildings are sending multiple people – which will make it easier when updating their own plan. Our hope is that the new process will make the quality of Schoolwide plans better, and-also spread the work out a bit more. The new process will be one year participate in the peer review, and do a self-review; the next year update their own Schoolwide plan; and the following year participate in their district's ESEA/NCLB monitoring and complete a self-review again.

**Title I Distinguished Schools**

There were two buildings that represented Nebraska at the National Title I Conference as Distinguished Schools. Douglas County West Elementary in Valley was our Category 1 School for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years, and Hitchcock County Elementary in Culbertson was our Category 2 School for closing the achievement gap between student groups. Both schools were very excited to be there and proud of their achievements. There were 8 buildings that qualified this year and all submitted nomination forms. This is the most we have had, and we had to create a rubric and team to review the nominations. This year Beth sent out e-mails to all of those buildings that qualified. In the past it's possible that buildings didn't realize that they qualified. We think this is the reason for the higher number of nominations. For this next year there will be some changes in the requirements. It has always been that the building has to have made AYP, and with this being the second year of AYP goals for reading and math being at 100% this would take most, if not all buildings, out of the running. At the national level there have already been some changes made and we will be meeting to update Nebraska's requirements as well.

**Future National Title I Conferences**

January 28-31, 2016 in Houston

February 22-25, 2017 in Long Beach

February 8-11, 2018 in Philadelphia

January 30-February 2, 2019 in Kansas City

**Working Lunch**

Renee Hyde asked the committee to discuss during lunch possible parents, members of local school boards, or pupil services personnel who might be interested in serving on the Committee of Practitioners.

**SES (Supplemental Education Services) application**

Randy McIntyre, Title I Accountability and SIG Coordinator, reported the results of a survey from districts which are currently required to offer SES services. The survey asked respondents 2 questions and was returned by 56 districts: 1) indicate the minimum number of tutorial hours that an SES provider should be required to offer; 2) indicate what you would recommend for a maximum cost per instructional hour for one-to-one tutoring. The average number of tutorial hours recommended was 18 hours and the maximum one-to-one instructional student rate was \$53.00. The results from this survey will be used to update the SES application for the 2015-16 school year.

Further discussion followed focusing on how better to monitor and improve the overall SES being provided in Nebraska. Items discussed included: an in-state presence for providers; placing providers on probation; developing improvement plans for providers; more timely survey results. Additional concerns were focused on how to measure

student achievement results from providers and how important this was in holding SES providers accountable.

The application deadline for SES applications has been moved to June 1 from March 1 to allow for more input from districts on their experiences with SES providers during the 2014-15 school year. SES applications will be reviewed at the COP meeting on June 23, 2015.

### **School Improvement Grants**

The School Improvement Grant (SIG) application process was discussed for the 2015-16 school year. The application process has been moved back by the United States Department of Education (USDE) from January to April along with several changes to the application process. The SIG applications for districts will be available (at least in draft form) by April 16 with applications due to NDE by June 1. Districts that will receive SIG awards will be notified by July 1. Final approval of SIG awards will take place at the State Board of Education meeting on August 7, 2015.

Changes to the SIG application process were briefly reviewed. Listed below are the changes outlined in the handout provided to committee members:

- SIG awards can be five years in duration instead of the three previously allowed.
- Three of these five years must be implementation years with the other two years identified as either planning or sustaining years.
- There are now seven intervention models possible instead of the previous four. The additional models allowed are:
  - a) State-developed alternative model;
  - b) Evidence-based, whole-school reform model;
  - c) Early learning model.
  - Rural School flexibility now allows for REAP districts to modify one element of the turnaround or transformation model.

### **Title I, Part C: Migrant**

No Report.

### **Title I, Part D: Delinquent**

Pat Frost, Title I Consultant and Title I, Part D State Coordinator, shared information regarding Title I, Part D, Neglected/Delinquent grant. Currently the student numbers in the state agencies and the detention centers are lower due to recent legislation for community services. The national Title I, Part D conference will be held in May, and Frost continues to represent coordinators on the NDTAC panel for juvenile justice and education. Two concerns that have been discussed at local coordinator's meetings include:

- larger number of students with mental health issues in the local and state placements
- exit data collection for student outcomes.

### **Title IV, Part B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)**

Karen Stevens, Title IV, Part B Coordinator reported the program has gone from 14 programs to 114 programs with the same 5.5 million dollars in funding as years before. A very important objective for this program is meaningful family engagement. The committee is currently looking for schools that provide meaningful family engagement as a model for the program. The program's committee is working on providing data which will show a correlation between after school programs and educational benefits.

Senator Kate Bolz is sponsoring a bill for additional state funding for afterschool programs, the bill has been advanced to the Nebraska State Education Committee to provide funding through the Omnibus Education Bill (Lottery money). A link to the website is provided for additional information. <http://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/>.

### **Title VI: REAP – Rural Education Achievement Program**

#### **SRSA – Small Rural School Achievement Program**

#### **RLIS – Rural Low-Income School Program**

Brad Conner, NDE REAP Coordinator shared the following information: NE has 181 school districts that receive REAP Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) funds and 3 districts that currently receive Rural Low Income Schools (RLIS) funds. The advantage of qualifying for these funds is that they can be used to support any of the activities that would ordinarily qualify in programs under Title I – Title V.

The USDE uses US Census data, and other factors to determine school district's eligibility for these funds. RLIS schools must have at least 20% poverty levels. The data USDE uses reflects a much lower poverty level than we have on record, based solely on school's Free and Reduced Lunch counts. In some cases, our poverty counts are twice as high as those being reported by USDE. We have inquired about the possibility of using a poverty measure

other than the US Census data to determine RLIS eligibility. That may not be possible, but if it is, we may be able to qualify more school districts for these funds.

### **Title III: Language Acquisition**

#### **ELPA21 - Language assessment update**

Terri Schuster, Title III and ELPA21 Coordinator, reported to the committee Field testing is in the process of completion. Approximately 23 Districts, large and small were included. Positive feedback included high student engagement/motivation with the test, students liked the pictures and graphics, K-1 writing tests were developmentally appropriate, tools worked well, help desk was available, practice tests were helpful, time frames for administration were appropriate. Negative feedback included technical issues; Grades K-1 will need a lot of support.

Schools are advised to purchase integrated headsets and have young students practice manipulating a mouse. This type of purchase is not allowable with Title III funds.

DOJ/OCR (Department of Justice / Office of Civil Right) Guidance-January 7, 2015

The departments have issued joint guidance on the anniversary of Lau v Nichols to remind states and districts of their obligations under federal law that English Language Learners (ELLs) have equal access to a high quality education and the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential. The guidance covers 10 compliance issues they often see in their investigations. Two fact sheets are included: 1.) A summary of the 10 common civil rights issues and 2.) information on communicating with parents.

Additional information can be found at: [http://www.education.ne.gov/NATLORIGIN/Immigrant\\_Education.html#Grants](http://www.education.ne.gov/NATLORIGIN/Immigrant_Education.html#Grants)

### **Title IX Part C**

Bryan Seck, Homeless Coordinator for Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) shared information from the National Conference on Homeless Education in Kansas City he recently attended. Bryan's focus as an LPS Homeless Coordinator is on being visible and educating the community as to services that are available to homeless students. The Connected Program is also a focus for LPS which is a comprehensive suicide prevention program. LPS is collaborating with community members for suicide education and prevention which occurs at a higher rate among homeless students.

Attendance is a major barrier to homeless students. One of the ways in which LPS is improving this process is by purchasing buses for homeless students, 4 buses and 1 van are available to homeless students. LPS has realized a cost savings and increase in student attendance by owning the buses. The buses are rented to other school programs when not in use for homeless students. Tina Forte of (Omaha Public Schools) called attention to concern for extensive background checks for transportation drivers.

### **Educator Equity Plan**

Sharon Katt, Administrator of Adult Programs and Marilyn Peterson, former NDE Federal Programs Administrator presented information regarding the Educator Equity Plan. The Title II, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires each state to develop an equity plan. The U.S. Department of Education has mandated new requirements and a new plan must be submitted by June 1, 2015. Nebraska will use AQuESTT as the overall vehicle for meeting the requirements of the plan.

In reviewing data from the top and bottom quartile of the population of students, no gaps were found in the area of qualified teachers. When data was further analyzed to include student outcomes, such as graduation rates and NESAT testing, a 30 Point deficit was noted in math and science among high poverty and high minority populations in elementary and secondary levels of education. Data analysis continues as NDE determines the direction and strategies to include in its Educator Equity plan. The focus of the plan will most likely be on supporting our educators in addition to mentoring.

### **Next Meetings**

June 23, 2015 – Country Inn and Suites, Lincoln

October 20, 2015 - Fairfield Inn, Kearney